

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S E C R E T

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Status of Development and Production of Electronic Tubes in East Germany

DATE DISTR. 11 JUL 1958

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

status of development and production of electronic tubes in East Germany in the spring of 1958.

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1. The basic division of electronic tube production among East German factories has not changed. Radio broadcast and long-life tubes are manufactured at the VEB Funkwerk Erfurt; all technical and "special" tubes, at the VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen (WF), Berlin-Oberschoene-weide. Oscillograph tubes are begun at the WF plant and shipped to Erfurt for completion. Completion, assembly, and other subcontract work, are done by other tube factories, such as the VEB Roehrenwerk "Anna Seghers", Neuhaus-am-Rennweg.
2. The division of electronic tube production among the member states of the Soviet Bloc (i.e., the COMECON group) is not too successful. A conference is supposed to be held by the tube-producing enterprises in the various People's Democracies, but so far this has not taken place and no one seems to be particularly anxious to attend such a meeting. For example, the Hungarian firm Tungsram has tentatively proposed suspension of miniature tube production and the purchase of these from East Germany, but so far nothing has been done. The Czech firm Tesla is not enthusiastic about such a tube production agreement, nor are the Soviet enterprises. Only Poland appears interested, because domestic production of tubes there has not been too successful.
3. Even the rough structure of the new picture tube factory at the WF plant has not been completed. It was supposed to be in full operation this year, but interest has somewhat lessened. By the end of 1958, 17-inch picture tubes were scheduled to be produced on a test run. In 1959, a second line, also on a test basis, of 21-inch tubes is supposed to be in production.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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According to last year's planning, the tube factory was supposed to produce 600,000 picture tubes by the end of 1959; this figure has been modified to about 300,000 tubes, but even this latter amount is not certain, in view of material shortages and lack of skilled personnel. In WF circles, it is believed that the new picture tube plant has been planned too large for exclusive television tube production, and it is hoped that a part can be turned over to the production of "special" tubes.

4. By 1960, a total of 350,000 television receivers are to be manufactured in East Germany; for the third Five-Year Plan (1961-1965) about 500,000 are planned. These figures are considered to be "fantastically optimistic", in view of the fact that series production of the "Weissensee" set to be produced by the VEB Stern-Radio Berlin-Weissensee will not start until the fourth quarter of 1958. Stern-Radio hopes to complete 3,000 sets during 1958 and then manufacture them at the rate of 3,000 - 4,000 per quarter. 25X1
5. Some of the new tubes which were exhibited at the Spring Fair had been announced at the previous Fall Fair in Leipzig, but are only now beginning to be produced in series. Tube development is concentrated on special tubes which are urgently needed but have to be procured for the most part from abroad. The prototypes are not of Soviet manufacture, but are exclusively "international". A Soviet tube specialist admitted that the USSR is planning to give up the development of tubes and to adopt "international" types. 25X1
6. VEB Vakutronik Dresden has developed three new Geiger-Mueller counter tubes, VA-Z 110, VA-Z 231, and VA-Z 431. The Institute for Instrument Construction (Institut fuer Geraetebau) displayed two self-quenching (selbstloeschend) counter tubes, GMZ 1 (argon-alcohol) and GMZ 3 (helium-alcohol or helium-methyl). There was also an operating model of a windowless (fensterlos) counter tube for the measurement of weak Beta rays. Other counter tubes are being developed at the Institute for Instrument Construction. Manufacture of tubes developed at the Institute takes place at Vakutronik.
7. The report contains detailed accounts of various tubes, including DF-668, DF-669, DL-67, DL-68, EC-760, and others of all types, which were exhibited at the Fair. 25X1

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